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CHILE: THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON NOVEMBER 15 TO RELEASE 323 PERSONS IMPRISONED UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE IS A MAJOR GESTURE DE&NED TO DIMINISH INTERNATIONAL CRITICISMOF CHILE'S VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

IN MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT, A JUNTA SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE 18

OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS "TOO DANGEROUS TO BE FREED IN CHILE" WOULD

BE EXPELLED IF ANOTHER COUNTRY WOULD ACCEPT THEM. THE SPOKESMAN

SAID TWO PRISONERS--COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF' LUIS CORVALAN AND

FORMER ALLENDE COALITION SENATOR JORGE MONTES--WOULD BE RELEASED ONLY

IF THE USSR AND CUBA WOULD RECIPROCATE BY FREEING TWO PROMINENT

PRISONERS. THE CHILEANS CALLED ON WORLD OPINION TO PRESSURE THE

USSR AND CUBA TO TAKE SUCH RECIPROCAL ACTION.

BY NEARLY SWEEPING THE JAILS CLEAR AT THIS TIME, THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT PROBABLY EXPECTS TO LESSEN THE IMPACT OF A CRITICAL REPORT RECENTLY CIRCULATED BY THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATING GROUPS AND HOPES TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE WITH THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION. THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION ALSO IS A TACIT ADMISSION THAT INTERNAL SECURITY

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